ABSTRACT

A storage area network (SAN) monitor device and a networked configuration for monitoring the SAN. Application in Fibre Channel is described as an example. In the networked configuration, a plurality of Fibre Channel probe devices are inserted into the fabric at

5   desired links, and the probe devices are connected to each other and to a master via a communications network such as an Ethernet. The probe devices operate in a snoop mode to gather information from the Fibre Channel, and transmit gather information via the communications network to the master for further processing or display. The tasks performed by the probe devices include monitoring performance, health and traffic of the fabric; analyzing

10   specific transfers by capturing all the data; generating traffic to test specific links, etc. The probe devices may be programmable devices so that tasks may be dynamically programmed by the master via the communications network. One probe device described herein comprises a Fibre Channel interface and a programmable logic block connected to the Fibre Channel interface. Also described is a probe attachment module that can be attached to an existing switch on the

15   Fibre Channel to monitor a plurality of Fibre Channel devices connected to the switch.